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Letter, 1976 August 12, from Jack O'Brien to Eva Jessye

Jack O'Brien

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JACK G. O'BRIEN

12 August, 1976.

Dear Miss Jessye:

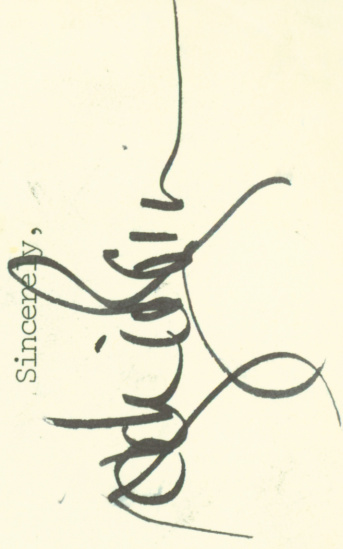
I spoke with David Gockley briefly today, and told him of our most recent conversation. I said I hoped it would be possible to bring you to Philadelphia while the company is still there so we can continue our talks, and you could see the production in a more "finished" version.

His response was both predictable and disappointing. He told me straight-forwardly that there is simply no more money for adding to the staff, or even augmenting it at this time. He said that naturally, any arrangements between us that could be worked out would be fine, but that he could not be a part of any financing at this time. I said that you could hardly be expected to come from Ann Arbor under your own steam, and with no recompense, and he said he realized that, but with this enormous "nut" we are sustaining in Philadelphia, and all the enormous political and financial problems that have ensued, he simply could not start adding things on to an endangered budget.

I have no course but to sympathize with him. We've come close once or twice to having to cut the size of the orchestra down, and have squeaked through precariously. I need additional costumes and replacements for New York, and in terms of priorities, I'll have to hold my requests to a minimum to simply sustain the event as it is presently.

I'm very disappointed, but I hope you can appreciate the situation that company is in at this point. Naturally, we will stay in touch, and I hope something will happen so that we can at least get you to New York to see the finished product. Again, many many thanks for your kindnesses and your encouragement.

Sincerely,



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